

Remarks

Reexamination and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is requested. Claims 21 and 23 - 29 and 31 - 35 remain in the application and claims 1 - 21 were canceled without traverse pursuant to a restriction requirement. No new claims have been added.

Applicant believes there is no charge for this response because no new claims have been added.

Response to the abstract objection

In response to Examiners objection to the abstract due to canceled claims 1 - 21, Applicant has amended the abstract so as to directly relate to the remaining claims of the present application.

Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 112 Rejection

In response to Examiner's rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, Applicant has amended claim 21 to change "the" to "a" removing the lack of antecedent basis. Further, Applicant has amended claim 30 changing "at last one of" to "at least one of" for clarity.

Response to the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) Rejection

The Office Action rejects claims 21, 25 - 29 and 32 - 35 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Todoroki in view of Heegard. Applicant respectfully submits that rejection has been overcome in view of the claim amendments and remarks that follow.

Application has amended claim 21 and 29 to include the limitations of claims 22 and 30 respectively. As the examiner indicated that claims 22 and 30 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of those claims and the base

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claim, Applicant submits that claims 21 and 29 are now in condition for allowance. Further, as claims 23 – 28 depend from now allowable claim 21, Applicant submits these claims should be allowable as well. Additionally, as claims 31 – 35 depend ultimately from now allowable claim 29, Applicant submits that these claims should be allowable.

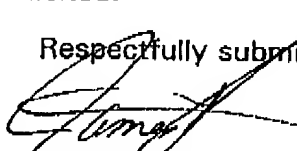
Conclusion

Applicant believes that the foregoing is a full and complete response to the Office Action mailed 15 March 2004, and it is submitted that claims 21, 23 - 29 and 31 - 35 are in condition for allowance.

Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #50-0221.

If the Examiner believes that there are any informalities which can be corrected by an Examiner's amendment, a telephone call to the undersigned at (202) 607-4607 is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



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